

Applicants' claims have been amended in a manner believed to overcome the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, wherefor it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Turning to the rejection of applicants' claims on their merits, it is noted that applicants' claim 1 has been amended to, inter alia, call for the elastic energy accumulator member as having a number of interconnected sections of different diameters. This claim structure differs from the Dransfield et al. reference which does not teach or suggest an elastic energy accumulator member having a number of interconnected sections of different diameters. Accordingly, the Dransfield et al. reference must fail as an anticipatory reference. Accordingly, applicants' amended claims 1-7 and 16 are believed to be allowable over the Dransfield et al. reference.


Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) on the Dransfield et al. reference. Claims 9 and 10 depend from amended claim 1. The Examiner has recognized that the Dransfield et al. reference does not recite a specific number of cylinders or the same length for an accumulator. However, the Examiner has taken the position that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Dransfield et al. to arrange for any number of cylinders or any desired length.

It is respectfully submitted that the Dransfield et al. reference does not teach or suggest, or provide a motivation for, modifying the Dransfield et al. reference in a manner to attain applicants' claimed structure. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 9 and 10 are also allowable over the Dransfield et al. reference.

For the foregoing reasons, allowance of applicants' claims 1-16, as now amended, is believed to be in order and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

WELSH & KATZ, LTD.

By   
Richard L. Wood  
Registration No. 22,839

April 12, 2000  
WELSH & KATZ, LTD.  
120 South Riverside Plaza, 22nd Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
Phone: (312) 655-1500  
Fax: (312) 655-1501